Sustainable development is...

Foundations can be a powerful force for sustainable development. Individuals from jewelry designer Elsa Peretti (Tiffany) to technology greats Gordon Moore (Intel) and Bill Gates (Microsoft) and media giant Ted Turner (CNN) have created foundations to help communities develop the understanding and tools necessary to live sustainably. These new organizations build on the work begun by the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations, as well as the more recent Pew, MacArthur and Heinz Foundations. Through activities such as convening meetings, supporting hands-on development projects, and strengthening capacity around the world through educational programs, these foundations work in partnership with government, the private sector and other non-profit organizations.

Global Alliance for Vaccines & Immunizations (GAVI)

Every ten seconds, a child dies of a vaccine-preventable illness. The U.S. is an important supporter of The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), formed in 1999 with an initial contribution of $750 million by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help ensure that every child in the world get appropriate immunizations. GAVI partners include governments, international agencies, foundations and industry associations who cooperate to provide vaccines for the estimated 25% of children worldwide who lack access. Both USAID and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provide ongoing technical support to GAVI, including assistance to countries in the development of plans to introduce new vaccines and strengthen routine immunization activities.

The U.S. complements GAVI with country-level partnerships designed to strengthen routine immunization infrastructure by improved planning and monitoring; improved donor coordination; activities to increase demand for vaccines; increasing safe injection practices; improving waste management; and strengthening of cold chains. By mobilizing an international network of donors and technical agencies committed to child vaccination, GAVI hopes to achieve 80% immunization coverage by 2005.

Land O'Lakes School Milk Program

School children need to be adequately fed before they can fully take advantage of educational opportunities, yet millions of children do not benefit from adequate nutrition. The United States Department of Agriculture and Land O'Lakes Foods, Inc. have created an ongoing school milk program designed to support students as they pursue educational enrichment. This program helps attract students to attend school, and also helps them make the most of their educational opportunities while in school.

Through the program, nearly half a million Indonesian children receive milk and biscuits fortified with important nutrients each day. Land O'Lakes also sponsors classroom initiatives that teach children about good nutrition. Similar programs are underway in Vietnam and Bangladesh, where over half a million more children will benefit. School milk programs offer incentives for parents to send their children to school. In Bangladesh, a pilot program demonstrated a 30 percent increase in attendance since the program began. By providing safe and nutritious food, the school milk program also helps students nourish their minds.